

as mere variety. Again, our Indian bird lays three eggs; and I have never seen the parent birds feeding more than this number of young ones, occasionally only two. Mr. Tristram, *per contra*, mentions having met with as many as five and six. Lastly, it is difficult to conceive that *Burnesia lepida*, Blyth, and its African ally (*Malurus gracilis*, Rüpp.) can be identical; for, judging from the Indian representative, it is a bird of very limited powers of flight, and certainly not capable of flying more than a few yards at a time.

I cannot, however, do better than forward herewith the second nest above alluded to, together with its belongings, to enable the matter to be authoritatively disposed of. The egg is certainly the prettiest and one of the smallest I have ever seen; indeed I found it too small to risk measurement.

The nest referred to by Jerdon as having been found on the Indus by Lieut. Wood cannot belong to this species for two reasons: first, it is not the nature of birds of this group to make a *pensile* nest; and, second, the subject of this note is one of those few birds that breed between the end of the cold weather and the beginning of the hot (March and April)—not during the rains as the generality of them do (July to September).

B. lepida will probably be found wherever there is thao jungle intermixed with surput grass along all large rivers. Mr. Brooks has recently obtained a specimen on the banks of the Jumna.

Like *Drymaopus inornatus*, the male of *B. lepida* has a blackish bill, while in the female it is fleshy brown. I find that the sexes, as a rule, can be distinguished by this peculiarity; but perhaps this sexual difference is only seasonal.

Futteghur,
N.W. Provinces, India.

XXIX.—*A further Revision of the Genus Leucopternis, with a Description of a new Species.* By OSBERT SALVIN, M.A. &c.

(Plate VIII.)

IN August 1868 Mr. Sclater and I published a synopsis of the species of the genus *Leucopternis*, in the text accompanying a

plate representing *Leucopternis semiplumbea* in 'Exotic Ornithology.' The genus, as then understood by us, contained eight species, which we divided into two categories—one, comprising seven species, having the whole of the underparts white, and the other, a single species, having those parts banded with white and lead-coloured bars. The species which I now propose to describe carries with it the bird usually known as *Urubitinga schistacea* (Sundev.); and the two together form a third section of the genus, having the whole of the underparts uniformly plumbeous in colour. My remarks on these two species, and a further note on *L. princeps*, form the principal subject-matter of this paper. For all further details respecting the other members of the genus reference must be made to the summary at page 121 of 'Exotic Ornithology.'

The new species I propose to call

LEUCOPTERNIS PLUMBEA, sp. n.

Plumbea, alis extus et cauda nigricantioribus, hac fascia mediali alba transvittata; corporis lateribus et alarum pagina inferiore, præter remigum apices, albis; tibiis albo transfasciatis: rostro plumbeo-nigro, cera aurantiaco-flava, pedibus flavis: long. tota cir. 14·5 poll. angl., alæ 9·4, caudæ 5·8, tarsi 2·5, dig. med. cum ungue 1·8, rostri a rictu 1·3.

Hab. in repub. Æquatoriali.

Obs.—*L. schistaceæ* similis, sed alis extus nigricantioribus et intus albis, tibiis fasciatis et caudæ apice nigro facile distinguenda.

The first primary in *L. plumbea* is about two inches shorter than the longest, and nearly the same length as the secondaries; the second primary is one inch and two tenths shorter than the third, which is the longest in the wing, though the fourth and fifth almost attain the same length; the sixth is eight tenths of an inch shorter than the fifth; the seventh and eighth divide the remaining space to the secondaries, which cover the tip of the ninth primary: the white of the under wing is almost pure towards the ulna, but towards the extremity of the inner primaries becomes spotted with pale plumbeous.

The wing-formula of *L. schistacea* hardly differs from that just given, except that the third primary falls short of the fourth and fifth by four tenths of an inch and is equal to the sixth.

The single specimen from which the above description was taken was contained in a collection of bird-skins recently received by Mr. E. T. Higgins from Ecuador, and was probably obtained in one of the valleys of the Andes in the vicinity of Quito; but on this point I can give no exact details. I at first took it to be a skin of *L. schistacea*; but a comparison with specimens of that species at once showed the differences pointed out above. Its resemblance to *L. semiplumbea* led me to the conclusion that the former bird would find a more natural position in this genus, and moreover that its removal from *Urubitinga* would relieve that genus of an abnormal element.

The differences between *Leucopternis* and *Urubitinga* are not very trenchant. They consist chiefly in the shorter tarso-metatarsus of the former and in the proportionally longer toes; the nostril is almost circular in both genera. The primaries project beyond the secondaries rather further in *Leucopternis* than in *Urubitinga*, the secondaries being very long in the latter genus. Another distinction, which, however, is of a negative character, is also important. In *Leucopternis* we have no evidence to show that any of the species passes through a distinctive immature dress before assuming the plumage of the adult. The immature stages of the young of *Urubitinga* are well known; and birds of the two commonly known species in their first fawn-coloured dress spotted with black are almost as familiar as adult specimens.

Leucopternis is also closely allied to *Buteo*; and the members of the two genera resemble each other in habits. In *Buteo*, however, the wings are longer and more pointed, and the secondaries shorter than in *Leucopternis*. The nostril, too, of the former genus is more elliptical in shape, and thus differs from the circular nasal opening of the latter.

Since our article was written in 'Exotic Ornithology' I have obtained a second specimen of *Leucopternis princeps* from Costa Rica; and as the skin is marked as that of a male, I take this opportunity of giving its dimensions. Long. tota 21·0, alæ 14·0, caudæ 7·5, tarsi 3·5, dig. med. cum ungue, 2·75, rostri a rictu 2·2. Comparing these dimensions with those given by Mr. Selater in the 'Proceedings of the Zoological Society' for 1865, p. 429, it will be seen that they indicate a rather smaller bird

than the type there described. It is probable therefore that the original skin sent us by Arcé, but of which the sex was not noted, belongs to a female bird.

Of the so-called *Urubitinga schistacea*, which I now propose to place in the genus *Leucopternis*, I have recently seen and obtained skins which were collected by Hauxwell at Pebas, and by Bartlett near Cashaboya, on the Rio Ucayali; in the adjoining district, on the Rio Javarri, Mr. Bates procured specimens of it. I have also secured a skin which I found in a collection from Bogota which had been forwarded to Mr. Cutter direct from that city. This bird was probably obtained in one of the Andean valleys which stretch away from the cordillera to the eastward. The range of the species seems to be restricted to the basin of the Amazon and its large tributaries. In addition to the localities already mentioned, Mr. Sclater refers to its occurrence in Bolivia. Natterer obtained two examples during his journey—one at Borba on the Rio Madeira, and the other at Barra do Rio Negro. All these places come within the limits of Upper Amazonia; but we have Prof. Schlegel's authority for its occurrence near Pará, and in Guiana, near Cayenne; a specimen in the Leyden Museum is also stated to have come from Brazil, which term doubtless must be construed in a political rather than in a zoological sense.

The ten species of this genus (specimens of all of which, except *L. melanops*, are in our collection) may now be arranged as follows, the synonymy of eight of them being given in the article already referred to:—

A. corpore subtus omnino albo.

a. capite toto albo.

1. *L. GHIESBREGHTI*. Ex Mexico et Am. centr. ad Panama.
2. *L. PALLIATA*. Ex Brasilia merid.
3. *L. SCOTOPTERA*. Ex Brasilia merid.
4. *L. ALBICOLLIS*. Ex Guiana, Venezuela, Amaz. et Ins. Trinit.

b. capite nigro striato.

5. *L. MELANOPS*. Ex Guiana et Amazonia.
6. *L. SUPERCILIARIS*. Ex Amazonia.

c. *capite plumbeo, dorso concolori*.

7. L. SEMIPLUMBEA. EX Isthm. Panama et Costa Rica.

B. corpore subtus albo, plumbeo transfasciato.

8. L. PRINCEPS. EX Costa Rica.

C. corpore subtus plumbeo unicolori.

9. L. SCHISTACEA*. EX Amaz. et Columbia.

10. L. PLUMBEA. EX rep. Æquatoriali.

XXX.—*Notes on some Birds from the Chatham Islands, collected by H. H. Travers, Esq.; with Descriptions of two new Species.* By Captain F. W. HUTTON, F.G.S.

MR. H. TRAVERS having lately returned, with considerable collections, from an eight months' visit to the Chatham Islands (a small group lying about 475 miles due east from New Zealand), I am enabled through his kindness to draw up the following list of the birds, which includes not only those species which he brought away, but also a few others of which he was not able to obtain specimens; so that it may be looked upon as complete, so far as our present knowledge extends.

1. CIRCUS ASSIMILIS, Jard.

Mr. Travers was unable to procure specimens of this bird; but he saw a dead one that had been killed too long for preserving. He informs me that it does not differ from New-Zealand examples.

2. PROSTHEMADERA NOVÆ-ZEALANDIÆ (Gm.).

Two specimens.

3. ANTHORNIS MELANOCEPHALA, Gray.

Several specimens, male, female, and young.

The female and young differ from those of *A. melanura* only in size; the latter correspond entirely with *A. auriocula*, Buller.

The eggs are usually of a darker pink than those of *A. mela-*

* *Asturina schistacea*, Sundev. Œfv. Af. K. Vet. Förh. 1849, p. 132; Schl. Mus. des. P. B. Asturinæ, p. 8; *Morphnus schistaceus*, Schl. P. Z. S. 1857, p. 261.; *Urubitinga schistacea*, Schl. P. Z. S. 1858, p. 128; Schl. & Salv. P. Z. S. 1866, p. 198; 1867, p. 979; Pelz. Orn. Bras. p. 2; *Falco ardesiacus*, Licht. in Mus. Berol. teste Bp.



J. O. Reuter sc. H. H.

M. H. V. a. n. a. r. l. a. n. g.

LEUCOPTERNIS PLUMBEA.